CONFIDENTIAL

6/29/72

Dear Harold,

I write this now and state explicitly that this is for your information ONLY; it is to be absolutely confidential. No one but Lil may see this.

It is 9:30 am and Jerry just called me. Here is what transpired.

Jerry said he had not called to talk about the matter with Harold, but rather about the thing with Sylvia and Cyril. "You were supposed to meet with them at Sylvia's tomorrow night?" he asked. I said that was true but that as of now, Wecht had not called, and I would make no plans until he called. Then Jerry said that Sylvia wouldn't be able to make it so that Wecht and I would have to make arrangements to meet on our own.

I questioned Jerry extensively, and this is what I developed relevant to Sylvia. Jerry called Sylvia Monday night after he received your letter. Sylvia could barely talk. She said she was despondent, had gotten a letter from you also, but could not yet bring herself to read it. She said someone was at the door and hing up. She called Jerry back later that night and said she had skimmed your letter, but said nothing about the letter. Jerry said he discussed with her the matter addressed in your letter to him. Then, he said, Sylvia broke down crying, saying that we had all worked so long for this and now it was ruined. She told Jerry that she didn't know if she could face Wecht, and that he should call her Tuesday night, to see how she is.

Jerry called her Tues and she said that she was in no state to go through with the meeting, and that he should call Wecht and tell him to get in touch with Howard on his own. Jerry was not to call Cyril until Wednesday. On Wednesday, Sylvia called Jerry before he got Cyril. She told him she was staying with her neice in New Jersey, who was taking care of her. Jerry said that Sylvia was crying through the entire conversation, and that she said she was utterly despondent and depressed, and that she did not know what was happening to her.

Jerry called Cyril, who was, he said,"pissed off" at everybody. He was mad that Sylvia had not called him, although Jerry said this was impossible beaause she was so upset. He apparently indicated that he was mad at me too for my attitude. Jerry said that he is not sure Sylvia accurately conveyed my position to him, and he may think that I refused to talk to him. I told Jerry that was unlikely, but that it did not matter because it is his responsibility to call me. Wecht said he was at the point where he would just as soon "read a couple books" to brief himself. He said that Wecht has spoken to Bob Smith but he doesn't know if Smith "briefed" Wecht.

Jerry said to me that he thinks it of the utmost importance that somebody brief Wecht. I disagreed and said Wecht needs no briefing at all to evaluate the stuff; he is a forensic path. Then Jerry said something that still has me spinning:

"Well, I think <u>somebody</u> has to talk to him. So I called Lifton and told him to get in touch with Wecht. I had told Wecht in advance that I would do this for him."

I hit the ceiling. I said to Jerry, "Who the hell do you think you are calling <u>anybody</u> about this? Where do you all of a sudden get the background to make decisions about this, and for other people? And Lifton of all people. Jerry, how could you ever consider contacting Lifton!"

Jerry asked what was wrong with Lifton, after all isn't he better than nobody? I said, "Who knows what Lifton is up to, or what connections he has. Look at his relationship with Liebeler. There is no telling what harm he can do to us with this advance knowledge."

Jerry said, "Well, that cat is out of the bag already."

I replied, "It is beaause you let it out. What business of XX yours was it. If anything, that was Cyril's job. Cyril can dial a telephone. You don't know enough about this to make such judgements."

Jerry replied that he had an "interest" in the case. I said big deal, you don't have the knowledge. I also told him that if there is any contact between Wecht and Lifton, I would not have anything to do with Wecht. Jerry asked why, and I told him I could not associate myself with something that Lifton was advising Wecht on, that I couldn't live with myself if I did.

I asked Jerry if all this doesn't tell himsomething about Wecht. This man needs you (Jerry) to make his phone calls for him? He's going to innvolve himself with every lying, irresponsible son of a bitch in this, and you think there is any hope of him doing something responsible after heXX makes the examination? We won't be answering his questions at the press conference. We can't tell him what to do. And no matter how much we brief him, what about the irresponsible things he has said in the past, like on Long John, his CIA-conspiracy crap. Don't you think someone in the press is going to be cued in on what Wecht has said? How is he goinng to answer that? They'r going to take him apart.

Jerry said this was the turning point in the case, that if we muff this we've ruined ourselves forever. I told him I didn't agree. I said there is absolutely no reason why we should see this stuff now. Jerry said we were getting nowhere because we didn't agree.

I asked him if this showed him anything about Sylvia. I said sure, we all can disagree, but not to bring it down to such a personal level. I said what kind of rational judgement is she capable of if this is the way she reacts? How can I ever trust her judgement again, and how can I be sure about it in the past now? Jerry had no answer.

He told me he wrote you a letter and sent me a copy, and we could discuss it later. I told him I'd wait to see his letter and then decide if I would discuss it.

XXXXXX He offered to call Wecht back and ask him to call me. I said no. If Wecht wants to talk to me, let him call me--on his own. I told Jerry to but out of this, and brought up Lifton, saying I could not understand how Jerry could do such an irresponsible thing. Jerry was shaken, I could tell, because he was meek as a mouse and did not defend himself, which is his usual tactic.

He said he was very concerned for Sylvia, indicating she is on the verge of a breakdown. He said he didn't know what could have done this to her, that it must be more than the case. I said that if she read Harold's letter as it deserved to be read, that could have upset her. Jerry asked what Harold said, and I told him that Harold told Sylvia he was sick of all the slanders about his "suppressing" evidence. He said that he has made everything he has available to every responsible critic, and those who did not see it did so of their own choice. So, while Sylvia has the right to go and do what she pleases, in excercising that right she sacrafices her right to complain. I said also that Harold pointed out that those who have done no work now wish to steal his and claim it as their own and "it just doesn't work that way." Jerry was silent.

That is all I remember, and it is complete, to my recollection. I am shaken. This week has been an unbelievable strain on me, and Jerry has, to my thinking, confirmed everything Harold has told me. It is just beginning to sink in and have its impact. I should have more to say later. I wanted to get his down immediately.

HR